

News Release



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State Parks Proposing New Statewide Process for Evaluating Changes-in-Use for Roads and Trails

California State Parks (CSP) has completed the draft Program EIR (PEIR) to evaluate the Statewide Roads and Trails Change-in-Use Process. The PEIR has now been released for public comment.

Various interest groups and individuals from across the state have requested access to trails within state parks. With increasing demand by the various user groups, CSP created an objective, systematic and consistent change-in-use process to use throughout the CSP system.

This process is designed to facilitate the feasibility of proposals to add or remove uses to an existing recreational road or trail in the state park system. It would not automatically trigger a change-in-use review for all roads and trails in a park unit; a specific trail would have to be proposed for a change-in-use by the district or by a user group. At that time, the process would be used to consider whether or not a change in use is appropriate.

The proposed process is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- to implement the CSP trail policy, which encourages multi-use trails and trail connectivity;
- to evaluate appropriate proposals for road and trail change-in-use projects (i.e. add uses to or remove uses from existing roads and trails) in CSP units that can be implemented in a manner that avoids or clearly mitigates potential significant effects on the environment;
- to refine or clarify, the environmental compliance process in park units for qualifying change-in-use proposals through the process;
- to provide an objective and consistent evaluation tool and process to inform decision-making while recognizing the diversity of resources and users at each park unit; and
- to ensure that these objectives are achieved in an open and transparent process.

This PEIR evaluates the impacts of implementing the process. It does not evaluate the actual change in use of any specific road or trail. Throughout the process, the public will continue to be involved in change-in-use proposals. Upon release, this PEIR can be reviewed at any district office or online at www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=981.

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